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Joan Claybrook, President

April 29, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

To whom it may concern,

We are extremely concerned about the proposed rule, currently before the FDA, that would weaken labeling requirements for foods treated with radiation. Although this issue is critically important, it has gone largely uncovered by the press. Many citizens concerned with issues concerning nuclear technology and food safety are unaware of Docket #98N-1038.

For this reason, we believe that the three-month public comment period on the proposed rule change is an insufficient amount of time for building public awareness about changes in labeling for food irradiation. In order to allow adequate time for public comment, we respectfully request a three-month extension to the period for public comment, extending the deadline from May 18 to August 18. This extension would allow us a sufficient amount of time to educate both ourselves and our network of concerned citizens about the proposed rule change.

Sincerely,

Wenonah Hauter  
Director, Critical Mass Energy Project  
Public Citizen

Diane D'Arrigo  
Director, Low Level Waste Project  
Nuclear Information & Resource Service

98N-1038

Ralph Nader, Founder

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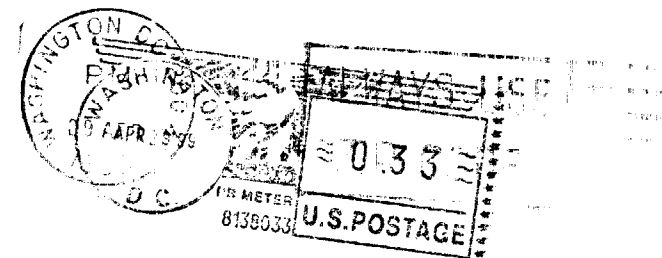


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